



St. Patrick's Church, Hill of Tara

Photo taken by Hugh McNelis

A Message from Fr. Thomas

Arrangements for returning to Mass – July 2020

I would like to thank the RST for giving me this opportunity to communicate with all parishioners. It is good news that we see light at the end of this lock-down; 100 days on the 20th June.

Firstly, I want to extend my sympathies to the O'Dowd, Corrigan, Dunne, Sheridan, Gallagher, Caffrey, Mangan, Duffy, Gray and Byrne families on losing a loved during this pandemic. The most difficult thing for me on lock-down was not being able to be present with you on such a sad occasion. Please God, when all returns to normal we will remember these special people together as a faith community.

Secondly, I am glad to have this opportunity to outline the new format for weekend masses. Our first mass will take place in Rathfeigh on Saturday evening at 6pm on July 4th. As usual there will be a 9am & 11am mass in Skryne on Sunday July 5th. Our priority is to stay safe and healthy and accommodate as many parishioners as possible while adhering to HSE guidelines and social distancing. Therefore, we have decided to celebrate mass outside.

For this purpose, we have purchased a gazebo for each church. We would envisage a family taking up a position on the church grounds. The gazebos will be on the grass as the altar will be placed in the gazebo to allow me to celebrate mass in all weathers. If we went indoors at present only 25 people could attend the 6pm mass in Rathfeigh and a max of 50 at the 9am and 11am in Skryne due to HSE guidelines and social distancing.

The gazebo will be on the grass in both churches with the best panoramic view possible. We have installed new speakers and sound systems in both churches. In the event of rain parishioners can attend mass and remain in their cars while tuning into the mass on their car radio.

Parishioners have kindly volunteered to be Eucharist Ministers and Ushers. The distribution of communion may take a little longer, but I am confident we will manage this as a community. Under diocesan guidelines we are instructed that all communion must be received on the hand.

Daily mass will commence on Monday July 6th at 9am. Daily mass never exceeds 40 people so social distancing will be easy to adhere to in Skryne Church where we can accommodate a maximum of 50 people indoors.

I want to thank all who have volunteered to assist with our safe return to mass.

I would like to thank all front-line workers, all parish groups who offered their services to help others and indeed all the offers of help that I received personally. It really was Christianity in action. I would like to thank Mick Ryan for

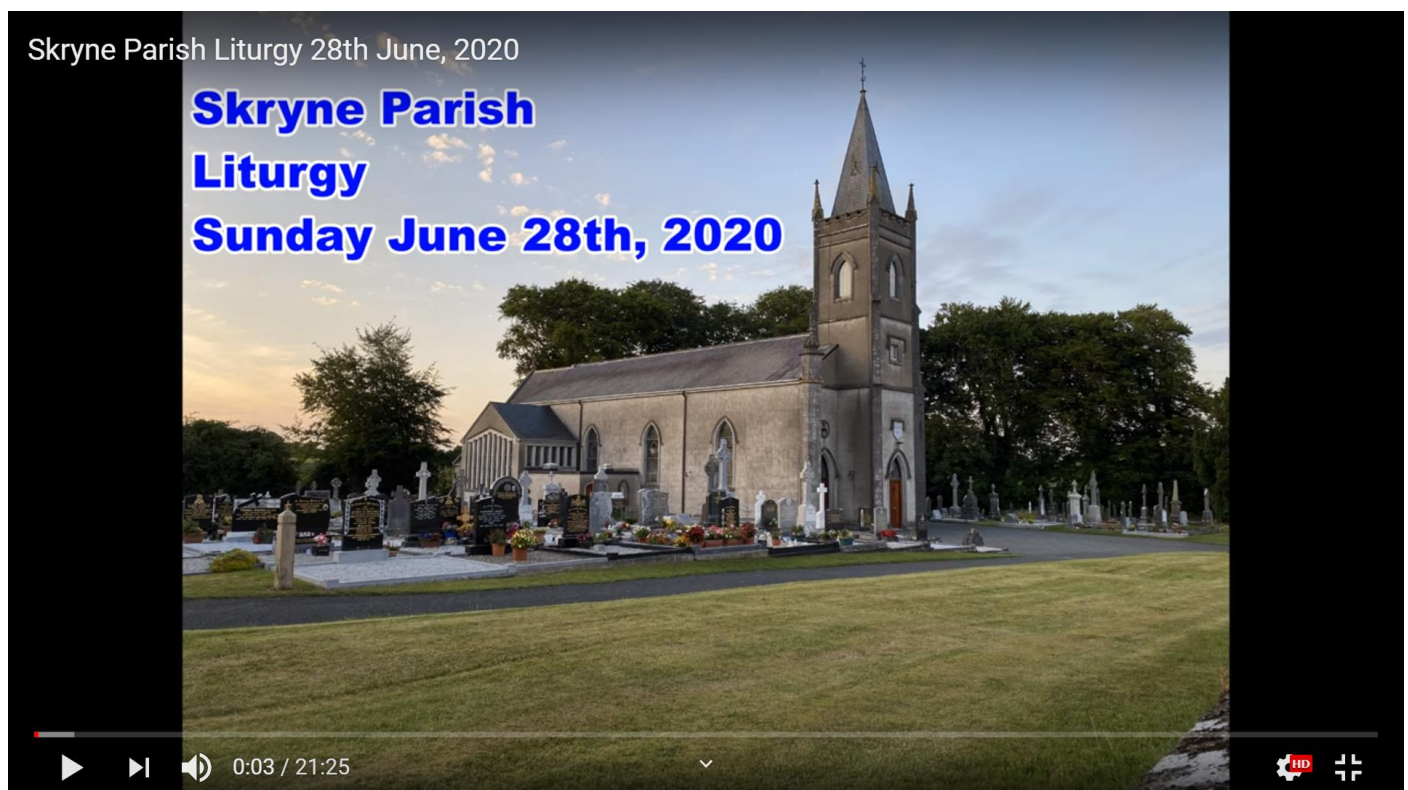
assisting in the sourcing the gazebos and to Stuart Gray for the installation of the two new sound systems and speakers.

Finally, a thank you to Paddy Crosby for all his work in maintaining our church grounds and assisting us in our return to mass. A special word of thanks to Catherine Hanley and Michelle Larimar for their care in keeping our churches in such good condition and that lovely welcoming feeling that we all experience when we come through the doors. They have also played a major role in sourcing volunteers and working quietly behind the scenes to ensure that we will all be back at mass on July 4th.

A sentence that I found comforting during lock-down was the following

“God is in Heaven; all is right with the world.”

Weekly Liturgy



Link to Liturgy this week

<https://youtu.be/sw1WXkMOhM8>

#abetterlifeforallie from Cormac Grendon

Skryne CLG are delighted to support the A Better Life for Livie Solo Challenge with @RorysStories on June 28th all in aid of raising much needed funds for little Livie Mulhern. Livie needs a major operation and has to go to America with medical bills reaching €2 million.

We'll have many of our club members participating on the day, soloing a football from Ballymagarvey village in Balrath to Kilmoon Cross. With the support of other clubs throughout the county and along with Rory, we'll all solo for a total of 75Kms from two starting points, one in Navan, the other in Bettystown both going to Ballymagarvey and then onwards with Rorys Stories to Garristown Co Dublin.

Please support the club, Rory's Stories and most especially Livie with a donation to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/a-better-life-for-livie-solo-cha...> where you can also learn more Livie and why she needs your support.

The ROUTE:

This will allow us to set off from Ballymagarvey on Sunday 28th @ 2.30pm which would be Skrynes starting time, ending at the Snailbox car park at 4pm, where Skryne handover to Curraha. It would be great to support the lads on the day with any Flags and showing your support.

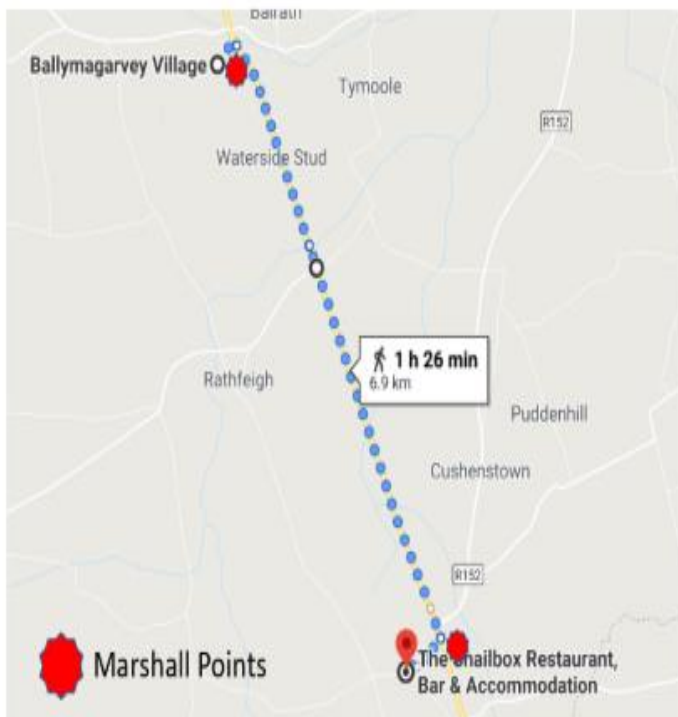
Any contribution would be gratefully appreciated for a young girl who is hoping for a better life !!!!



Leg 3 –Ballymagarvey village (Balrath Cross) to Kilmoon Cross (Snail box car park)

Total Distance – 6.9km – Estimated time 1hr 26 mins

Est Start time: 2.30pm / Estimated Finish time: 4.00pm



Ballymagarvey Village to Kilmoon Cross

From Ballymagarvey, turn right onto N2.

Travel on N2 to Kilmoon Cross, turning right to Snail Box car park (Handover to Curraha)

Handover to Curraha

Rathfeigh National School from Seamus Tansley

Sixth Class Graduation

The last few months have been very tough for everyone in the Education sector. The issues regarding the Leaving Certificate dragged on for a considerable time before clarity was reached in May with the Leaving Certificate being effectively cancelled and being replaced by predictive grades. In primary schools our younger children had to adapt to working from home through distance learning and “Zoom”. This was tough on everyone – parents/guardians, teachers and of course the children. It’s difficult, at this stage, to determine the extent that the long absence from school will have on the children in educational and well-being terms. The children will have missed out on so much which is impossible to quantify. I have mentioned on numerous occasions that it would be very upsetting for our sixth class pupils if they weren’t able to say goodbye properly to their classmates or have a proper graduation ceremony. We were obviously, and understandably, constrained in having a graduation as a result of government guidelines. Despite giving assurances to our sixth class pupils on Zoom that we would have a graduation ceremony when it was safe to do so (either in July, August or even September) I’m sure some of them thought it wasn’t going to happen. The good news is that we have just been notified by our insurance provider that graduation ceremonies can be held from June 29th provided the following guidelines are adhered to:

- HSE Guidelines including social distancing
- Government road-map restrictions regarding numbers in attendance
- Return to work safety protocols

I will be discussing with our Board of Management the best options available to us in order to have a safe environment for the graduation – using the school hall or even outside at the back of the school (weather permitting). I will let all parents/guardians know by “textaparent” the date/time of the ceremony. This has given me and I’m sure the whole Rathfeigh school community a great boost and we are really looking forward to this very special evening. I’m sure some people’s patience on this matter has been tested but as the 18th century writer George Horne said **“Patience strengthens the spirit, sweetens the temper, stifles anger, extinguishes envy, subdues pride, bridles the tongue, restrains the hand and tramples upon temptation”**. Our patience has paid off and the sixth class pupils will be getting their graduation in the school building that they thoroughly deserve!

First Confession

Father Thomas has provisionally set September 12th for the First Communion. This is subject to change depending on the evolving state of the virus. Hopefully, the children will get the big day that they deserve.

Well-being

The mental health of our children has been seriously challenged over the last few months. The following article from the INTO is worth reading and may be helpful to us all!!

“There was no memo at the start of 2020 to inform us of what was to come this year, but teachers, as always, stepped up to the mark and delivered. Much praise has been extended to our frontline workers and their trojan work during the current crisis. Teachers are among the heroes, without whom the education of our future generation could not have carried on. Teachers’ creativity and compassion for their pupils knows no boundaries – to quote An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar “*the limit does not exist!*”.

Schools play a vital role in the promotion of wellbeing through a broad spectrum of activities and approaches that support not alone the academic achievement of pupils but physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual development. Through this most turbulent time, teachers have continued to provide learning opportunities for the children in their care, whilst promoting and nurturing wellbeing. The last few months have seen a sudden change in methodologies, ways of working and ways of living and teachers have invested a considerable amount of time adjusting to new modes of teaching and communicating with pupils. Stress and anxiety come hand in hand with change and uncertainty. Teachers are renowned for their caring nature and volunteerism and looking after themselves may not always feature high on their agenda. However, it should! Our mental health is critical and through a healthy mind comes a healthy body.

Follow these **Ten Commandments** and keep the sunny side up.

1. *Stay Safe (and wash your hands!)*

As the summer season approaches, teachers cover many safety topics with their pupils including lessons on water safety, farm safety, sun safety etc. but don’t forget that these apply to you too! Summer months with long bright evenings and warmer weather are ideal for outdoor gatherings and adventures. Do ensure that you heed safety measures whilst adhering to social distancing guidelines (and make sure that those burgers at the barbecue are cooked thoroughly!).

2. *“Eat what nourishes your body. Do what nourishes your soul.”*

There are many known links between exercise and mental health, and an added benefit to exercise in green, open spaces. The nature of our environment can impact on our feelings of well-being and happiness, so peaceful, scenic surroundings will positively influence our mood. Stressful situations or a significant change in routine can cause disruption and when we tend to snack more, often turning to convenience foods and this in turn can result in feelings of lethargy. By eating plenty of fresh, wholesome food we will feel better in both body and mind. Utilise those improved culinary skills to prepare homemade dishes and home-baked goodies which be healthier and more nutritious than processed, packaged foods.

3. *Make sure to get your Vitamins!*

As well as being essential for bone and muscle health, Vitamin D is important in the prevention of acute respiratory infections and research has suggested that it will be of benefit in the COVID-19 pandemic. Vitamin D is produced in the skin from 10-15 minutes of sun exposure per day – so that’s another good reason to get outside and about to catch some rays (but don’t forget the sunscreen!).

If you are lucky enough to be near water, you can stock up on some Vitamin ‘Sea’! The therapeutic properties of sea water are widely documented.

4. Get creative, try a new skill

Creative juices have been flowing for those who have been working from home or on reduced schedules. Many people have unearthed new passions for cooking, needlework, painting, and writing. Across the country we have seen top-class penalty takers, brilliant banana-bread-bakers, and magnificent music-makers. (There will be fierce competition in the next series of Super-Garden as those with green fingers had a chance to spend time tending to their surroundings creating meticulously manicured lawns and gardens!). Continue to tap into your creativity for their your own benefit, and perhaps even develop a new talent!

5. Slow down, lessen the pace

The nature of the online word is instant and intense. Resources and information can be accessed at the press of a button. No sooner are emails sent than messages come flooding back. The last three months have been a challenge for everyone with strict lockdown measures enforced. Now that much of our normal routine is returning (as evident from significant increase in traffic in the last couple of weeks) and the finish line is in sight, it is important not to get too caught up in the hustle and bustle, stresses and strains of our regular fast-paced society. Take the time to cool down. Just like our bodies need time to recover after exercise, so too do our minds. Do not set timeframes that are overly ambitious, don’t put pressure on yourself but savour the opportunity to slow down to a leisurely pace “*what is this life if full of care we have no time to stand and stare*” (W.H. Davies).

6. Enjoy the journey – not just the destination

Remember those initial days of lockdown when we were confined to within 2 kilometres of our home. We yearned to go for a drive, wished for a walk through the forest, longed for a breath of sea air or even to just go that extra mile! Now that restrictions have been lifted go do all those great ordinary things. Take in the beauty around you as you travel, whether it’s the cows in the lush green grass, the birds singing, the flora and fauna – appreciate mother nature!

7. Keep it simple and no need to spend too much!

Whilst some of us may rue a missed opportunity for a trip abroad, use summer 2020 to explore the Emerald Isle.

Music enthusiasts will be disappointed that concerts have been cancelled and festival goers will have a vacuum in their summer schedule. Sports fans too will feel deprived, as their wait

for tournaments such as Tokyo Olympics and Euro 2020 is extended and match days in Croker are a little while away yet!

Covid-19 lockdown has taught us all that often the best things in life come free. Without fine dining in lavish restaurants, hotel stays, expensive entrance fees to events, shopping sprees or trips to the cinema we found other sources of entertainment and ways of connecting with friends. Those for whom gym sessions were a staple of their daily routine realised the unparalleled joy that can be found in the great outdoors!

8. *“Write it down and treasure the memory forever”*

Courtesy of An Post, another common practice in recent months has been reverting to the trusted pen and paper! Whilst technology has served us well, allowing work to continue and people to connect with family and friends, sometimes the simple art of letter writing, or personal diaries is lost. A good idea is to keep a journal of positive thoughts. Choosing uplifting quotes, songs or even taking note of a special moment can boost our mood. Articulating an inner thought (either verbally or in writing) reinforces it and makes it more effective. This will be a valuable resource to refer to and look back on when this time passes.

Another interesting idea is to get involved in the [Covid-19 Oral history project](#) co-ordinated by DCU. This initiative is led by Professor Theo Lynn and Caitríona Ní Cassaithe who is a former primary school teacher now working in the role of lecturer in history education at DCU Institute of Education. The project aims to create a repository of oral and written histories about COVID-19 that will be made available to researchers, historians and the public as an open source digital archive.

9. *“Distance means so little when someone means so much”*

For many, the Covid-19 lockdown encouraged us to communicate with friends or extended family members who we had not been in contact with for some time. In times of need, the support of others is invaluable and reminiscing on happy memories and sharing stories helped to escape from the stresses and strains of a difficult situation. Over the coming months, try to keep in touch with those who may have reached out to you in our time of crisis.

10. *Stay informed*

With public health advice changing in line with research and developments, keep your finger on the pulse and be aware of the guidelines, but stay away from unreliable articles. Only read information and advice from reputable sources. Social media most certainly has its merits, but often the dissemination of inaccurate information leads to untold damage and exacerbates the stress levels of those who are already fearful. Avoid unfounded reports and articles and do not share links with others that you cannot confirm to be true.

...agus ná déan dearmad do lámha a ní!

As the curtain falls on another academic year, teachers should ensure that self-care features in their fortnightly plan and the learning outcomes should be a knowledge, understanding and appreciation for life and its simple pleasures.

Early on in this pandemic, An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar promised us as a nation that if we made temporary sacrifices and abided by rules, we would return to somewhat normal living. As we continue to fight against the Coronavirus, we must remember to obey public health advice, maintain strict hand hygiene, keep the distance, and wear face coverings when necessary. Together we can weather the storm and in the words of Seamus Heaney, “*if we can winter this out, we can summer anywhere*”.

Summer Holidays

This week should have been totally different. The children would, in normal circumstances, be counting down the days to Friday for the summer holidays. We would have had huge excitement around the school – signing of school jumpers, unhealthy lunches, toys, extra play and many, many more.

Every child in Rathfeigh deserves enormous credit in the way they have dealt with the last few months. I am really proud of every one of them. More so than ever I wish all the children a very safe and enjoyable Summer. They DESERVE it. Here’s hoping to see everyone safe and well back in school at the end of August!

Also, I wish all our staff a great Summer. Once again this year I thank them all for their dedication and commitment to our school. We won’t have Ms Ward in Rathfeigh in September. She’s going on to “pastures new”. Aimee was a fantastic addition to our school and we will miss her greatly. We hope to see her back to unveil our Amber Flag in September!!

Summer Camps

Spraoui Summer Camp

Monday 27th of July - Friday 31st of July

9.30am - 2.30pm daily

Fr. McManus Park, Skryne GAA

Suitable for children from 4-14 years

(Places limited due to government guidelines)

Main activities to include; Gaelic, Soccer, Rounders, Basketball, Tennis, Volleyball, Capture the flag, Dodgeball, Music & Dance, Drama, Arts & Crafts, Treasure Hunts, Water Fights, Tournaments, Competitions and much more!!!

To book your place contact Caren on (087) 9081381

SUMMER SCIENCE CAMPS

AT RST COMMUNITY CENTRE, SKRYNE



23rd - 25th July
20th - 22nd August

€95 per child

*sibling discount applicable



For bookings visit: www.junioreinsteinsscienceclub.com

Email: junioreinsteinsmeath@gmail.com

Call us on 085 7555635

Tara & District Credit Union



Tara & District Credit Union We Are Open & Lending

Tara and District Credit Union was founded in 1977 and is based in what was the original premises of Kilmessan Co-Operative Agricultural Society. The original founders of Tara and District Credit Union then took a lease and this was the beginning of Tara and District Credit Union in Kilmessan.

Tara & District Credit Union Limited is a local, not for profit financial institution that serves Kilmessan, Dunsany, Moynalvey, Kiltale, Skyrne and Rathfeigh. Now, over 40 years on it boasts an active membership of 4,600 and still holds the basic philosophy from the original beginnings of the Credit Union Movement, in Germany in 1849 of people with some common bond, saving together and lending to each other at a reasonable rate of interest.

Some Great Reasons to borrow from Tara & District Credit Union:

- Highly favourable interest rates
- Interest is on the reducing balance and we have one of the best interest rates around.
- No extra charges – no processing charges or documentation fees, No penalties for early settlement – pay off your loan early without being penalised
- Quick decisions – on almost all applications, Free loan protection insurance i.e. in the event of your death your loan will be cleared in full*
- Personalised application process – every loan
- Applications considered on a case by case basis.
- You Can Borrow Up To €50,000
- *Terms & Conditions Apply to All Loans

Our competitive interest rates for standard Loans

Loan Amount	Typical Weekly Repayments	Term Months	Total Interest	Total Repayments
€1,000	€10.02	12	€41.16	€1,041.16
€5,000	€36.06	36	€825.57	€5,825.57
€10,000	€46.66	60	€2,132.79	€12,132.79
€15,000	€70.00	60	€3,199.19	€18,199.19
€20,000	€71.09	84	€6,190.95	€26,190.95
€30,000	€97.43	96	€10,627.37	€40,627.37

*Terms & Conditions apply to all Loans

We specialise in providing a safe place for savings and loans in our community. Tara & District Credit Union Limited is proud of its heritage and continues to be owned by our members and operated by our voluntary Board of Directors.

Opening Hours

	Morning		Afternoon	
	Open	Close	Open	Close
SUN	Closed		Closed	
MON	Closed		Closed	
TUE	9.30	13.00	14.00	16.30

We Have Changed Our Opening Hours we will now close 1-2pm on Friday And Saturday so we can sanitize the office. For all our latest opening Hours please check our social media pages.

We would like to take this opportunity to Thank all our Wonderful members for their continuous support and patience during these challenging times. The safety of our members and staff will always be paramount with Tara & District Credit Union

Our Contact Information:

Phone: 046 9025871 - Twitter@UnionTara
 Website www.taracreditunion.ie
 email: info@taracreditunion.ie
www.facebook.com/taracreditunion

We Have Updated Our Website

Have You Checked Out Our New and Improved Website TaraCreditUnion.ie



We have updated our website and systems; you may have noticed our new receipts and statements. All our Members can now view their Account Balances Online & can also apply for a Loan Online- for more information on our services head over to our website to have a look around & Register for your online access @ TaraCreditUnion.ie or contact us today & we can help you out!

Secured Loan Rates Available! Borrow within Your Savings.....

- Most people find it easier to repay a loan than to replace savings
- Approval within 24 Hours
- Enjoy even lower rate than our standard loan rate
- Continue to earn any future dividends on your savings account
- Guarantees you will not spend your savings, as you may not withdraw the pledged amount until your loan is repaid in full
- **Convenient payment options**

Competition Corner



We are so sad that we had to end our school savers scheme so early this year & that we never got a chance to say goodbye to all the fantastic savers in our local schools and so we have decided to run two Fantastic competitions ! YAYYY so our first competition is for students from Junior Infants to 6th Class –All you need to do is Colour in the picture of our lovely office and complete a short paragraph as to "How Your Credit Union Helps Your Local Community" We have a fantastic prizes up for grabs!! so all you have to do is call to the office to pick up your entry forms!! The competition is running until the 31st July 2020, so pick up your Colouring sheet Today!! All our wonderful art will be displayed on our social media as well as our office.

SHORT STORY COMPETITION- we have another fantastic competition this is for students in 1st to 6th year in our common bond!! The short story must be in relation to The Credit Union -this can be about the history of our Credit Union or the Economics of the Credit Union it can be fact or fiction, You can take a creative approach or a journalistic approach either is welcome , we encourage you to become as creative as you like we have fantastic prizes up for grabs, entries must be received by the 31st July and the winners will be announced by the 5th August 2020 .
T&C Apply all Entrants must be a member of the credit union.

LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT LOAN FOR YOU? We Can Help You with That.. Contact Our Office 046-9023871

New volunteers always welcome. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at Tara & District Credit Union please contact our office, we would be delighted to talk to you.



Fergus Casey With Samantha O'Brien

Happy News!

Our Biggest Congratulations to Our Manager Samantha O'Brien and her Husband Stephen and Daughter Lauren on The Safe Arrival of their Beautiful Baby Boy Devin. We are thrilled that he arrived safely & Mum is doing well wishing you all health and happiness. We would also like to Give a very warm welcome to Fergus Casey who has joined our team in Samantha's Absence we are delighted to have Fergus as part of our team & would like to wish him the very best of luck.

Skryne GFC from Cormac Grendon

Skryne GFC boys underage are delighted to see kids return back to training from this Saturday. This is fantastic news not just for the parents but also the kids. Although it will be done in a phased role we still have a lot of new vital roles to play. It is important that all parents complete the relevant forms to allow their kids to play Gaelic Football. This is a directive from the Government and GAA that has to be adhered to. It really is changing times and we can certainly move with the changes to make it safer and still fun for all.

We have been waiting so long for this day to come. Thanks to all that have completed the forms along with the Covid Supervisors who have also put their names forward. Also to the Coaches who are eager to get back and when you are constantly making phone calls, booking pitches, attending meetings along with the training and games thank you. It's not often you would get a three month break when most of the time it's like a yearly event.

All we can say is please adhere to the guidelines set out and all the information and details are on our website.

The photo of the kids together is pre Covid days and to see this photo now may seem strange to people as they gather in a huddle for the halftime chat and laughs. The photo is compliments to Hugh Mc Neils and was taken on a foggy morning as the U6's played Seneschalston away on their last and only game of the year to finish off.





WHAT A PARISH! WHAT A YEAR!

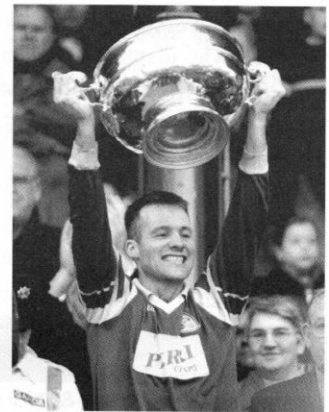
When the most positive man in Skryne GFC – Jim Gibbons, asked me would I write an article reflecting on our successful year, there could only be one answer “absolutely”. Amidst the great celebrations of Sunday last and the following days many people may have forgotten where the voyage began. In January of this year we began our training (along with Donnelly’s sheep) on the Hill of Tara, floodlights were brought from Navan each night while Sean Cahill put us through our paces. Our opposition in the 1st round of the championship – Moynalvey shared the hill with us and the banter was quite good. However, our 1st round performance against said opposition was not so good and many people reflecting over a pint in Shaws were not too inspired with our showing. Our league campaign began with 5 successive defeats despite a good commitment to training.

Our fortunes began to change when we beat Kilmainhamwood in a league match in Warrenstown and subsequent gutsy performances against Cortown, Seneschalstown and Summerhill ensured our survival in Division 1 for the year 2000. With the advent of Summer the “Venga Bus” carrying the Ross Cross contingent began to fill up and the spirit developed as the minds focussed on knock-out football. Good wins over Dunderry and Blackhall Gaels saw us progress to the quarter final. The long wait while Mac and Trevor performed heroics (again) Down Under was passed by very intense training and some excellent challenges. One of which was incorporated into our weekend away in Wexford. After our game with Killanerin, Liam Griffin helped us with our preparations by way of an informal questions and answers session which went down very well with all the players. This was followed by a few sociable 7-Ups and some Telly Bingo.

The next morning Kenny O’Connell, Colin Lynch and David Donnelly put us through our paces with a 10 mile jog around Enniscorthy. Needless to say the spirit was good leading up to the quarter final and while our performance was only adequate against Ballinlough, I think we were more than adequate in the first twenty minutes against our close rivals (and allies in house draws) in the semi-final. The 21st November

1999 will always be a special day in my life – to captain such a great bunch of lads to success was an honour. To all the players – thanks for your great effort, enjoy Christmas and be ready to go even harder in January – Next Ball! To Eamon, Martin, Ray, Mickey, Sean and Lily, you are a wonderful team lets keep the momentum going – some St. Patrick’s Day soon I would gladly miss Cheltenham! To everyone in the parish for your support – thank you very much, don’t forget to be in Fr. McManus Park for the league games, lets make Skryne a difficult place for opposing teams to get a result in next year.

Yours in Sport, **Mick O’Dowd.**



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!!

Yes, it gives me great pleasure to tell you that our U.13s won the League last Sunday 28th November at Rathkenny in wet and blustery conditions. Having previously reached the final by a record score 13.19 (a score which must be a record for any Skryne team in a semi-final) against Castletown, we entered the final quietly confident. The first half was well contested with both teams trading scores. We managed to finish stronger and led by 6 points at half time 3-3 to 1-3. The second half started much as the first, score for score with Ballinlough coming more into the game. At this

point we made a couple of changes and thankfully things started to go our way. At this stage the lads played some great football and ran out easy winners. I have not mentioned any names, because each and every one of the panel deserved this victory and it would be unfair to single out anybody. They were all brilliant. I would like to thank the parents, supporters, the club for funding food and entertainment and last but not least my two selectors, Fred and Eamonn.

The winning panel was: R. Whyte, M. Curry, R. Reilly, A. Tuite, K. Mooney, D.

Fahey, S. Dawson, V. Reilly, K. Mulvany, C. O’Donoghue, R. Daly, C. Byrne, A. Whyte, D. Whyte, R. McCabe, J. Hegarty, L. Gilsenan, E. Finnerty, R. Cunningham, C. Cunningham.

Congratulations also to our U.15 and U.11 teams, both of whom were runners-up in their County Championships.

Yours in Sport,
Des Finnerty.

This Issue is Sponsored by:
LIAM MULLINS

SKRYNE G.F.C.

Congratulations and very well done to the Senior team on their brilliant win in the final of the Championship. With four final appearances and three championship wins – Skryne can now officially be crowned “the team of the 90s”.

This win was very well deserved as training began on the Hill of Tara as early as last February. To the whole panel, and back room team – you deserve all the credit you get. Well done to all concerned. The club wishes to thank all who displayed flags and banners all over the parish and especially those who attended the match

and ensured enormous vocal support on the day. Well done!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will take place in Skryne Hall on Tuesday 14th December at 8.00 p.m. all members – and intending members welcome. Nomination papers have been sent to all members in the last few days. Please return completed forms to Ray Mooney (Secretary) as soon as possible. As some people may have received forms late they may still return them by next Monday 8th December.

SCOIL CHOLMCILLE



Congratulations and a big thank you to the players and management team of Skryne Senior Football team who came to visit us the morning after their great success in the County final. They received a rousing reception from their greatest fans. All were delighted to see not only the Keegan Cup but a re-visit of the Sam Maguire. Thanks also to Skryne G.A.A. club whose refreshments added greatly to the celebrations.

Well done to the team of athletes at the Meath Primary Schools Cross Country Championships last week. With up to 200 athletes competing in the same race, results from each division/section have not been received yet. The team that travelled was: Colin Doyle, David Fogarty, Ronan Kelly, Alicia Monerawella, Shauna Foster, Sinead O’Kane, Dermot Ryan, Matthew Fogarty, Chris Kelly, Shane Gore, Abigail Everard, Emer Finnerty.

The pupils from 3rd, 4th and 5th classes were unfortunate with the weather on their visit to the Hill of Tara Interpretative Centre on Friday last. They were invited to attend a Seanacháí – storytelling session which was held in the centre. They enjoyed the stories (despite the weather) which were a mixture of old and new.

Skryne National School from Martin Kennedy

Skryne NS closes out on a most unusual year

Martin Kennedy

12:41 AM (6 hours ago)

to me

Wandering around the school last week as we took returns of Book Rental items was a strange and sobering experience. In working our way through the closure period by taking it one day at a time it can easily slip your mind just how long a time spell has passed since March 12th. Very strange to be seeing art-work on the walls as we were then preparing for Lá Fhéile Pádraig, our Céilí Mór and Lá Glas.

Easter was still some weeks away!

I was reminded of a quote from Beatle, John Lennon ;

"Life is what happens when you are making other plans."

As we planned from day to day and then week to week, life happened.

Life for many was a struggle as we all learned to cope with our new reality. Some of us are still learning. Do we really need to queue forever for items that are not essential? Are all our trips to the shops essential? Did the workplace fall apart simply because you were not there?

Hopefully you can answer a resounding "No" to all of the above - and many other questions along those lines.

Without warning our lives were turned upside down and like any disruption there was going to be a period of readjustment. We discovered that toilet-roll is not an essential item, that cows still produce milk - and that Old Mr. Brennan was able to get a sufficient supply of flour to ensure that we all had access to a sliced pan. In fairness he did well as white flour became harder to come by than another white powder for a short period. Ask Eric Clapton!

In the meantime, life happened. The sun began to shine, the weeds began to grow, the evenings got longer and we could hear the most wonderful birdsong both morning and evening. Now we had time to enjoy it all. Thankfully the weather Gods saw our need and decided to give us all a break. April showers were cancelled.

Schools and teachers discovered new ways to annoy children and "Digital Learning " became a familiar term in almost every household. There was no escape. You could try blaming pure internet connectivity but then you may have been "found-out" when it was discovered that you had no trouble Zoom calling your classmates for chats. But for some strange reason the schoolwork just wasn't getting through. It may be that we have found a modern version of "the dog ate my".

All joking aside, most families did a phenomenal job in keeping their children engaged with their teachers. As a staff we have been amazed and delighted by the response we got from pupils who were out of their normal classroom environment. If we were to look for the "silver lining" it might be that so many children got to explore and express areas of their own talents that may not have been possible in the classroom situation. We have seen some fantastic artwork and creativity during the past months.

There have been wonderful constructions, dazzling science experiments and very informative project work. All made possible by having the time to complete it.

Other children got the opportunity to have their answers heard in a way that again may not have happened in the classroom. Nobody beat you to it with the answer in these circumstances. Your voice mattered.

Others found their voice as they grew in confidence by being able to answer without fear of embarrassment or ridicule. For some it has been liberating. Hopefully we can carry some of these learnings into how we teach when school resumes in September. Teachers have learned too.

For the past few weeks we have eased off on the academic focus and concentrated on more fun learning. For most of us the "Teach- the-Teacher" segments we have been receiving have been both eye-opening and rewarding. Pupils became teachers and presented on various topics to their teachers. The range of topics covered was impressive. Finn gave us a wonderful archery lesson - and killed a dinosaur. Enya showed us how to start and ride a motor bike. She never showed us how to stop one though. Has anyone seen Enya? We learned how to mind pigs and even had a French lesson. What a range! Undoubtedly though the one that impressed us above all was Rebecca's short video presentation explaining in great detail what Down's Syndrome is. This was pure gold and well worth a look on our school website. If ever we need a sub teacher next year

In fact I would encourage all pupils - and parents - to look at the work on the class pages of each group to see just how great the work of the pupils has been. You will be most impressed. We certainly have been.

And so we come to close the door on the strangest school year ever. At time of writing there is still no clarity on what school reopening in Sept. will look like.

In fairness to all concerned it is very difficult to plan for the unknown. So much will depend on how the virus reacts with the almost total lifting of restrictions. It may well be mid August before we know with any certainty. In any event you will be kept informed as we get direction from the DES.

We did not have an Induction meeting for intake class as per normal. Nothing is normal at present. There seemed little point until we know what the DES is advising around physical distancing and hygiene etiquette and procedures. Instead we plan to hold an Induction Meeting in the last week of August just before school reopens on Sept. 1st. It will be more relevant then. You will be informed of the actual date closer to the time.

As we write this note we have no update to bring regarding the First Holy Communion date . Restrictions for gatherings in church are being revised as we write and again we will bring you news on that front as soon as we can. Each parish it appears may make its own arrangements.

We are very sorry to be saying goodbye to a fabulous cohort of Rang 6 pupils.

It would be most difficult to put together a nicer and more together group of individuals. Not all of them have been with us for the full eight year journey but thankfully they had the good sense to join us before the journey reached its conclusion. Each individual has left their own distinct imprint on the fabric of life in Sc. Cholmcille. We have rarely had a cross word and when we did we moved on quickly and more united as a bunch. Thankfully we managed to celebrate Confirmation with Bishop Deenihan. Lots of schools were not so fortunate. While most others missed out on school tours we enjoyed a super day out to Glasnevin Cemetery and Museum as well as taking in the Croke Park Skydium Tour. We got through a lot. Silver lining!

Most schools were not able to enjoy the usual Graduation Ceremony because of Covid restrictions on large gatherings. From Monday we are permitted to stand for hours outside Penneys, no, sorry, that was two weeks ago!

From Monday 29th. we are permitted to hold gatherings of up to 200 in an outdoor setting. Then let's do it. We WILL have our Graduation ceremony on Tuesday 30th. in the school yard. Live in the moment.

Parents will receive a separate text regarding the arrangements. It wouldn't be right not to say a proper goodbye!

"The past is gone and the future might not even be, the only thing we ever experience is the now. I try to enjoy the minute." { Beatle, George Harrison }.

Let's enjoy "the minute" on Tuesday evening.

As we said last week we will not be sending any supplementary work with your children for the summer. It really is not necessary. You may well be bombarded with emails telling you far behind your children will be in September unless you give them whatever it is they are selling. Don't believe it. Every child in the country is in the same boat this year. The engines on this boat were damaged.

Digital learning provided the lifeboats. All the passengers on these lifeboats will be picked up. The professionals (teachers) will check them over in September and assess their vital signs. A course of remediation will be applied and before you know it those same passengers will be back up to speed. Trust the professionals to do the best for your child in the autumn. Treat all the white noise that will come your way as you would the panic buying of toilet paper some time back. It is not necessary!

Most pupils, parents and teachers have worked diligently and had over the past months. We are all exhausted. Holidays are there for good reason. Use them, make the most of them, enjoy the minutes.

Finally on behalf of the school may we say a huge thank you to all who have engaged so well with their learning over this closure. Between us all we pulled through and got there. The many nice messages of gratitude which have come to the school are deeply appreciated by everyone on staff. We all have the same motivation. The well being of the children. Your children, our privilege.

Have a wonderful summer, give Team Ireland a go for the holidays, stay safe and wash your hands.

No work samples attached this week. We are tired of spoon feeding you.

Visit "skryneschool.blogspot.com" instead to see so many wonderful examples of pupil work.

There is also a short video message to all our pupils you might enjoy.

Mar focail scoir, an enormous word of thanks to the dynamic team behind the RST who have done so much to keep people informed and spirits high during the turbulent time. Add in the various contributors who have enriched us all with story, poetry, advice and wisdom.

You are never alone when you have friends. RST has been a solid friend throughout. Míle buiochas.



Here are the solutions to Dingbat Challenge No 25 from last issue.

The Dingbat Challenge has now retired.

You should be a genius at this point.

PAGE 25

- 1 Forever on my mind
- 2 Time after time
- 3 Rose amongst the thorns
- 4 Just another brick in the wall
- 5 A mixed bag
- 6 Square dance
- 7 Dead in the water
- 8 Quarter-back, half-back, full-back
- 9 All in a day's work

Memories from Eoin Hickey

This extract is taken from Eoin's memoir titled 'Growing Up In Skryne'

Continuing A Virtual Tour by Pony and Trap

The Road by The Castle, to George's Cross, Rathfeigh and Drogheda.

Now that we're refreshed and the pony is rearing to go we head off, slowly, because the hill down is very steep. This time we're taking the road which goes by The Castle, on to George's Cross and eventually to Rathfeigh and Drogheda. Our first diversion is to turn in through the castle gate and head up along the avenue.

The gate lodge wasn't lived in in my time. On the left is a two-story house, home to the Oakes family. Mr K. C. Oakes, who came from Croboy, Johnstown, Navan, was the farm manager at Skryne Castle. His wife Finnola (Murray) was a member of an extended farming family from near Kilmessan. The five Oakes children were roughly our ages so we all grew up together. Two of the their uncles; Kevin and Frank Murray from Sligo and Navan respectively had their own light aeroplanes and quite often flew over at weekends when we kids had great fun guessing – is that Uncle Frank or Uncle Kevin?

Mr Oakes made a tape recording with my mother in the mid-sixties telling tales of his growing up on a farm in County Meath at the turn of the century. He talked about going Christmas shopping with the family to Dublin on the train from Kilmessan and how, on the homecoming, being met at the station by the pony and trap and having to make their way back to Croboy in the black dark.

We crack the whip and take off down the avenue, lined with mature beech trees, where each spring, wave after wave of snowdrops and golden daffodils appear.

As we drive, on the right, we can see a very fine example of a ha-ha which is a type of boundary fence used instead of a paling or hedge. A wide ditch is dug sloping on one side and faced with a wall on the house side, all underground so as not to interfere with views across the lawn fields. This ha-ha, which has a wooden fence added later on top, is [still] in excellent condition. We turn the slight bend and the castle comes into view.

Meath Chronicle

AND CAVAN AND WESTMEATH HERALD

VOL. 74.

NAVAN, SATURDAY, 20th JUNE, 1970

PRICE 9d.

Skryne Parish Week

Success for Skryne's Parish Week—the highlight of an ever-mounting social scene in the historic parish—was assured on Sunday when the event got off to a thoroughly triumphant start with a comprehensive and attractive programme drawing close on 1,000 people to Fr. McManus Park.

The festival, the third consecutive programme to be organised in recent years by a parish committee, opened with a children's sports which attracted entrants from surrounding parishes, in addition to a large mustering of pupils from Skryne and Rathfeigh national schools. Concurrently, a bottle stall, cake stall, lucky dip stall, pony rides, goldfish hunting and roulette were taking place.

The main feature was an open-air bingo session which drew big support and at which the entire proceeds were given in prize-money.

The festival continued on Sunday night with a dance in the local Matt Talbot Hall at which a Festival Queen was selected. She was Miss Annette Finnerty, 20-years-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Finnerty. Annette's elder sister, Breda, held the title two years ago. Annette, who is employed in Drogheda, likes dancing, tennis and Gaelic football.

The adjudicators were Mrs. J. Mulvaney, Miss Anne Hoey and

Miss Maureen O'Reilly, from the staff of Nolan's Pharmacy, Navan. Runners-up in the competition were Misses Enda Pentony, Lisa Gallagher, Mary Ryan, Mary Clynch and Brede Monaghan. Music at the dance was supplied by the Boston Showband.

The festivities continue tonight (Thursday) with a ceili at which the famed Gallowglass Ceili Band, by popular request, will provide the music. A very big attendance is expected at the function. To-morrow (Friday) night bingo will be held in the Matt Talbot Hall, which on Saturday will be the venue for a monster wheel of fortune.

On Sunday a field evening takes place in Fr. McManus Park. The programme includes weight guessing, stock judging, sheaf tossing and tractor backing. A sports, with inter-club competitions, will also be held as well as a ladies' football match between Skryne and Rathfeigh. Skryne will also face Seneschalstown in a juvenile football challenge. Target golf will again be featured. Perhaps the most attractive item on the programme will be another open-air bingo session for valuable prize-money.

The festival will be brought to a close with a fancy dress dance in the Matt Talbot Hall, with awards for the best costumes.

Results of competitions held last Sunday were:—

Boys: Under 6—John Barry, Harristown, Navan; Patrick Pryle, Oberstown, Skryne. Under 8—John Meegan, Duleek; Ian McArthur, Skryne. Under 10—Brian McCann, Ratoath; Michael Maguire, Tara. Under 12—Michael Maguire, Tara; Sean Eiffe, Ratoath. Under 14—David Pryle, Skryne; Vincent Dillon, Dunshaughlin.

Girls: Under 6—Linda Barry, Harristown, Navan; Jacqueline Curran, Navan. Under 8—Claire Donnellan, Newtown; Noleen McLallen, Walterstown. Under 10—Mary Bradley, Carnaross; Ann McGowan, Batterstown. Under 12—Susan Hayes, Trim; Eileen Dunne, Berrilstown, Tara. Under 14—Anne Cromwell, Kentstown; Muriel McCann, Skryne.

Teenage boys: J. Boyle, Gibbstown; Eamon Pryle, Skryne. Fathers' race — Ephrem Swan, Skryne; J. Durkin, Navan. Boys' sack race — James Gaynor, Skryne; Matt Bissett, Skryne.

Teenage girls—Ann Cromwell, Kentstown; Marian Bennett, Skryne. Mothers' race—Mrs. Olive Carty, Skryne; Mrs. Meegan, Duleek. Girls' egg and spoon race — Ann Carty, Skryne; Geraldine Gaynor, do. Three-legged race—Sylvia Boland, Skryne; Eileen Dunne.

Boys' inter-school relay — 1, Skryne (Padraig Finnerty, David Pryle, Gerard Hayes and Barry Alders); 2, Ratoath.

Target golf — J. Finnerty, senior, Skryne; D. Smyth, do.

Fancy dress — Gerald Clarke (Conservation), Michael Farrell (Harold Wilson) and C. McCann (Billy Jean King).

Irish Independent, Monday, June 22, 1970

Meath advance in uninspiring game

Meath 1-17 Carlow 1-4

APART FROM the unusual, if not unique, spectacle of a centre-forward saving a penalty taken by a full back who had started the game as a midfielder, there was nothing memorable about Meath's win by 1-17 to 1-4 over Carlow in yesterday's Leinster senior football championship tie at Newbridge, which puts the Royal County into the semi-final against Kildare.

After ten minutes of the second half, with Carlow now only five points down, came the remarkable penalty incident to which I have referred. Meath goalkeeper Sean McCormack dropped a long shot from Carlow captain Sean King, but bravely dived on the ball as Carlow players rushed into the "square." After a few moments of confusion, McCormack was penalised by referee Paul Kelly (Dublin) for lying on the ball, and with McCormack led behind the end-line to the side of the post, Matt Kerrigan was brought back to face the spot-kick.

After much consultation, Carlow's Pat McNally, who had started at midfield but was now at full-back, was brought the length of the field to take the kick, and shot it hard but straight to Kerrigan, who cleared without difficulty.

It was for the most part indeed a rather untidy type of game, with Meath showing obvious signs of lack of match practice. They will have to do better if they are to match Kildare.

Scorers—Meath—Brennan (0-6, three from frees), Rennicks (1-2), Kerrigan (0-3), Murphy (0-2), Shanley (0-2), Fay and Lynch (0-1 each). French had the Carlow goal and the points were scored by O'Brien (3) and King (free).

Meath—S. McCormack; M. White, J. Quinn, P. Black; T. Kearns, B. Cunningham, P. Reynolds; V. Foley, V. Lynch; T. Brennan, M. Kerrigan, M. Mellett; K. Rennicks, J. Murphy, M. Fay. Subs—O. Shanley (for Fay), E. McMahon (for McCormack).

BRAZIL THE GREATEST

BRAZIL . . . 4 ITALY . . . 1

Italy Swamped By Pele's Magic

By Morley Myers

BRAZIL wrote a page into soccer history before a 110,000 crowd at the Aztec Stadium yesterday, when they romped to a 4-1 victory over Italy in the ninth World Cup Final to become the first team to win the tournament three times.

Brazil, champions in 1958 and 1962, become permanent holders of the Jules Rimet trophy, glittering symbol of world soccer supremacy for 40 years. Seconds before the final whistle, Brazilian fans ran on to the pitch in triumph and the ball disappeared never to be seen again. The match was continued with a new one.

Brazil owed their epic triumph to a second-half display of attacking power in which they found the key to Italy's padlock defensive system.

Brazil looked to be well on the way to victory when King Pele headed them into the lead in the 18th minute. But Italy snatched a shock equaliser against the run of play through Roberto Boninsegna eight minutes before the interval.

But Brazil made certain in the second half, surging ahead with a goal from midfield general Gerson in the 65th minute, followed by goals from striker Jair six minutes later and a fourth by team captain Carlos Alberto with three minutes to go.

Brazil broke recent tradition, for they are the first team in 20 years who have opened the scoring in the final and have gone on to win.

Was the greatest - Pele

Brazil soccer king Pele, looking more euphoric than ever, said yesterday that the victory of the Brazilians against Italy was "the greatest excitement I have ever had as a player."

The Black Pearl, who was one of the outstanding players in yesterday's final reiterated that this was really his last World Cup. "I don't think I would be in great physical condition in another four years, and I think I better quit as a champion."

Pele also said he will play only another three seasons. Asked when he thought Brazil had the game in its hands, Pele said: "To tell you the truth I only became certain of our victory after the fourth goal."

BRAZIL — Felix; Carlos Alberto, Brito, Piazza, Everaldo; Gerson, Clodoaldo, Rivelino; Jair, Tostao, Pele.

ITALY—Albertosi; Burgnich, Cer, Rosato, Fachetti, Domenghini, De Sisti, Bertini; Mazzola, Boninsegna, Riva. Sub.—Rivera for Mazzola.

Referee: Rudi Glockner (East Germany).

Giant Killer Jacklin Is U.S. Champ

TONY JACKLIN, playing giant-killing golf, won the U.S. Open Championship yesterday to become the first Briton in history to hold the British and American Open titles simultaneously. The 25-year-old Jacklin became the fourth player in history to lead the tournament from start to finish, and only the fourth foreigner to gain the coveted crown—the most glittering in modern golf.

He accomplished a British dream which has been a mirage for half a century since Ted Ray last took the trophy to England in 1920.

The only other foreign players to hold the American Championship were England's Harry Vardon 70 years ago and Gary Player of South Africa who won five years ago.

Jacklin hammered home his victory on the crowd-jammed Hazeltine National course, whose 7,151 serpentine yards confounded and confused the game's most illustrious stars, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus.

Jacklin completed his triumph in majestic fashion by sinking a 20-foot putt on the final hole for a birdie three — a fitting climax to a superb performance stretched over four nerve-racking days.

He completed the tournament with a total of 281, seven strokes under par for 30,000 dollars (£12,500) prize money and an untapped fortune ahead of him.

At the ninth Jacklin hit his tee shot into the rough. But he placed his approach shot with a four iron to 25 feet and then sank his putt for the birdie. The British star immediately snatched another birdie at the tenth hole to go six under par for the tournament and lead Hill by five clear strokes.

Hill, who went one over par for a four at the ninth hole, completed the tenth in a regulation par four.

Disaster struck Hill on the par three 214 yard 16th hole when he put his drive in a trap and then ran 12 feet past the pin in blasting out.

The putt stopped short and Hill had a one over par to trail Jacklin by six strokes in a tie with Bob Lunn, who with one hole to play was level par for the tournament.

But Hill came back brilliantly when he put in a 12 foot putt to birdie the treacherous par four, 344 yard 17th hole, to go one-under for the tournament and trail Jacklin by five strokes again.

On the 18th Jacklin left himself a seven foot putt for par and the British Open Champion nonchalantly dropped it in drawing applause from the gallery, and a wide and almost relaxed smile from Jacklin.

FEIS NA MIÒE SHOW GROUNDS, NAVAN 29th JUNE, 1920.

People of Meath! Rally! Rally! Rally!

MONSTER CAELIC CARNIVAL.

CHOIRS, BANDS, VIOLINS, DANCING, SINGING,
LANGUAGE AND HISTORY.

RECORD ENTRIES!

Opening Address by Rev. Fr. Augustine, O.S.F.C.

Splendid Football Match—

OLDCASTLE v. RATHKENNY for Meath Feis Cup.



Rev. Fr. Augustine, O.S.F.C.,
Who will open Feis. One of the most
illustrious members of his Order. His
Address will surely be inspiring and soul-
stirring.

Prize Winners' Concert,
In C.Y.M.S. HALL, NAVAN, at 8.30 p.m.

Mr. Gerard Crofts

And Other Leading IRISH-IRELAND ARTISTES Will Augment PRIZE WINNERS.

Céilidh mór na Feire

In PAVILION, SHOW GROUNDS, immediately after PRIZE WINNERS' CONCERT.

Ireland must be un-Saxonised before it can be pure and strong.
Whatever will lead us most rapidly and securely to that condition in which IRELAND
will live, trade, fight and fond for **Herself Alone** is what
she wants and **Must Have!**

THE IRISH INDEPENDENT. TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 1920.

A GERMAN PAPER'S VIEW.

Under the heading, "English Hangmen in Ireland," the Pan-German "Deutsche Zeitung" says, according to the Berlin correspondent of the "Morning Post," regarding the large arrivals of troops in Ireland—
"We can only watch with bleeding hearts the terrible tragedy in the Emerald Isle. It is apparently considered that threats against the Irish liberation are of no avail, and it is possible that the world will shortly be the witness of a fresh English massacre in Ireland.

"The great English newspapers have sufficiently prepared the ground by means of incitement and lies. The murderers of Amritsar are loading their rifles. God protect poor Ireland and her brave people."

Some more extracts from Joan's Milestones along the journey of life

Playtime

Because there were no cars, or at least very few, we often played out on the road, on tricycles and home made "trucks" that were made from the wheels and axles of "redundant" prams and buggies, the bodywork would be made from old pieces of timber. There was always plenty of old boards and waste timber around everyone's yard, as those were the days when D.I.Y. was a necessity, not a hobby.

We would spend hours and hours pushing each other up and down the road in those same "trucks", and indeed we didn't always come home to our tea in one piece, as "speed" was the order of the day even back then, and many a time we ended up in a ditch of nettles and briars and had the split knees, bloodied noses, torn clothes and sometimes even worse to show for our zealousness.

We would then be "dealt with" by our Mother who would be giving out yards to us while at the same time washing and bandaging our injuries. I still have a few scars left from those escapades which will never go away, but then, neither will the memories.

It just occurs to me, I hope you, the reader, won't think that I look on those days as "the good old days", they were neither the good old days nor the bad old days, they were our old days, (good and bad) they were the times we grew up through.

The Procession In Navan

I remember we children had very little regard for money, (which was just as well, as there was so little of it about) money, (or the lack of it) didn't bother us at all, because we on the Borrowaddy road lived a long way from the shop, so what good was money if you couldn't buy sweets!!!. As for ice cream, no electricity meant no fridges meant no ice cream.

But there were two big days every summer when we did get ice cream and all kinds of goodies. The Corpus Christi Procession in Navan, when the town was completely decorated with bunting, flowers, ribbons and holy pictures for the occasion, and the Meath Feis in the Show Grounds, (also in Navan), we looked forward to these two big events for ages, especially if Skryne happened to be playing Navan O'Mahony's in the final of the Feis cup, which I seem to remember they often did!!!.

Of course you couldn't go to Navan in those days without running into the Twinnie Byrne who always had a bag of Fox's Glacier Mints to hand out.

On those two days, the road to Navan would be black with Skryne people all heading for the town with their children on the carrier and crossbar of the bike.

The bikes were "parked" in Butsy Keelan's (no relation) yard in Railway Street for a small fee, where people knew they would be safe until they came to collect them later.

Another day out we used to enjoy was Fairyhouse races. Easter Monday, was the family day, and we would spend the next day or two trying to imitate the Dublin Hawkers (as they were known then) shouting their wares "Apples, Oranges, Pears and Chocolate".

The serious race- goers would wait until Tuesday. They were the people who knew about horses, and betting and winning !!.

The Night Sky by Tony Canavan

July 2020:

There will be many opportunities to see the ISS (International Space Station) in the middle of the month in the evening southern sky as it passes across at high altitude (peak altitude 63°). Particularly **July 14th, 15th, 16th 17th** at 10/11 pm. Check websites for exact times.

There will be a **Penumbral (partial) Lunar Eclipse** on 5th July but not worth getting out of bed for as it will happen at 5:14 am at sunrise, so you will see nothing of this eclipse. A lunar eclipse happens when the Sun, Earth and moon are directly in line with the moon in the earth's shadow.

July 4th The earth reaches aphelion. At this time the sun is furthest from the earth on its annular orbit, distance 152 million kilometres. In mid-winter the sun is 5 million kilometres closer to us. This is due to the earth's elliptical orbit.

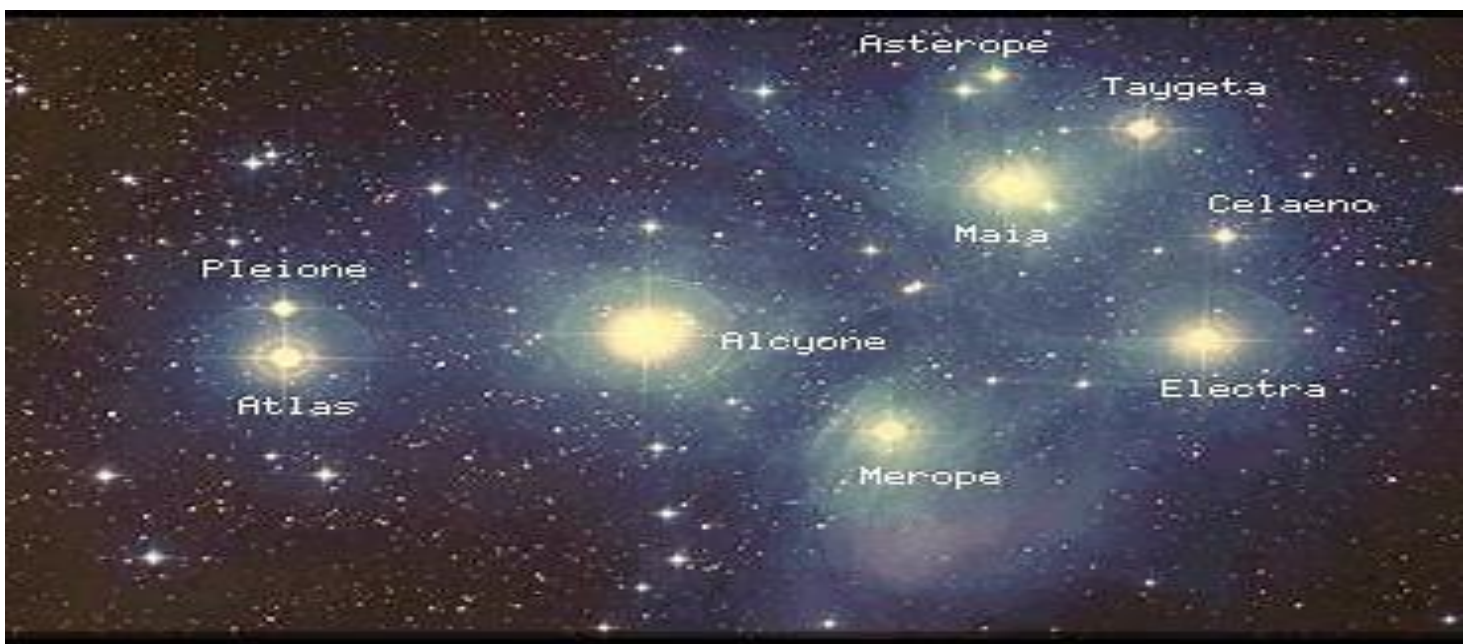
July 5th at 11 pm **Jupiter and Saturn** are rising in the SE just above the full moon. For the moon to be fully illuminated as seen from the earth it must be on the opposite side of the earth to the sun, so as the sun is setting the full moon is rising.

July 7th just after midnight in the SE we have the moon rising together with **Jupiter and Saturn** with the summer triangle above them of the stars **Vega, Altair and Deneb**. Andromeda Galaxy will be high in the NE altitude 24° just under Cassiopeia.

July 11th **Venus**, for so long our 'evening' planet in late spring and early summer, is now our 'morning' planet, appearing in our sky at about 4 am ahead of the rising sun. And right beside it is the red star **Aldebaran**. It is the brightest star in the constellation Taurus (it marks the head of the bull) and its Arabic name means 'the Follower' as it follows the Pleiades Cluster (the Seven Sisters) see below, located just above Aldebaran and Venus.

July 12th at 0100 hrs in the morning the last quarter moon rises in the East with **Mars** just above it. Mars is much brighter now and if viewed through a telescope you should be able to see surface markings and the polar ice cap. This is followed at 0300 by the **Pleiades Cluster**, the star **Aldebaran** and the planet **Venus** now in the morning sky.

The Pleiades (The Seven Sisters):



The Pleiades is an open star cluster in the constellation of Taurus.

The Pleiades are the seven daughters of the Titan God **Atlas** and the ocean nymph **Pleione**. Atlas rebelled against Zeus, the king of the Gods, who sentenced his foe to forever hold up the heavens on his shoulders. The sisters were so sad that Zeus allowed them a place in sky in order to be close to their father and mother (Atlas & Pleione).

The stars of the Pleiades are only 100 million years old. It is actually a group of about 800 stars located about 400 light-years away. These stars were all born around the same time from a large cloud of dust and gas. Because some of these stars are extremely luminous they will burn out quickly with life spans of only a few hundred million years (whereas our sun has a life span of 10 billion years and is in its mid-life crisis!).

An Ancient and Alluring Craft by Anne Frehill

Unfortunately, we live in the age of plastic pollution, driven by our “consumer culture” where almost everything becomes disposable. Plastic can take hundreds even thousands of years to break down and toxins from plastic work their way up the food chain e.g. they are often found in fish. This is also the age of what I call the “double wrapper”, where a countless number of items from biscuits to slim chocolate bars have at least two wrappings, all at a tremendous cost to the environment. In the world of marketing there is a cavalier attitude to waste, so we are bombarded with offers, buy-one -get -one-free, three- for the - price -of- two, and multi-packs. We are all guilty of buying too much food and as many of these offers have a short “shelf life” they end up in the bin! In less sophisticated times, people bought only what they required, and they frequently used baskets to carry their groceries.

Last Summer, I enjoyed a short break in Connemara, and I was enthralled to find that the ancient craft of basket making has witnessed a small but steady revival. On a wet, dismal day with the rain spitting in from the Atlantic Ocean I spent over an hour with a young man who makes his living not only by the making and selling of baskets but also by giving regular workshops on this craft (which were pre-pandemic booked out well in advance). He believes basket making appeals to his students on two levels, (A) it produces a practical and aesthetically pleasing object which can help store and/or carry things or food, thus cutting down the need for use of plastic (B) it has a rustic charm, people feel empowered by the simple act of crafting something from willow with just their hands and a special knife.

The late Kevin Danaher (Dept of Folklore UCD) found in his research that every parish had at least one basket maker while larger parishes had up to 5. Baskets were invaluable in everyday life, they were used for storing and carrying, everything from fish, eggs, turf, seaweed, bread, potatoes and so forth. It is worth noting that his research on this matter also highlighted County Meath where he discovered that in the 18th and 19th Centuries, many acres of “osieries” (that is ground used to specially produce varieties of willow grown for basket making) were grown for direct sale to the basket makers of Dublin to meet the demands

of that congested city. Osieries, when grown for the basket makers own supply were between a quarter of an acre to ten acres, while farmers often secured ten pounds an acre from Dublin Basket makers, who also had to cut the rods themselves. The ground was prepared usually in a damp place or near a stream or on an island in a river and the osiers were propagated by cuttings which were often set in the ground in bunches of three to give a thick clump. The soil was well fertilised with either local manure or lime and in two to three years the twigs were ready to be cut for use in basket making.

The tools of the trade were simple, a short-handled billhook and a sharp knife to cut the rods, a few instruments for separating the rods when a second type of rod was to be included into the main basket and a blunt tool for pushing the rods together again. Rods were usually cut in the Autumn, after the leaves had fallen and then left for several weeks to season. Apart from the more obvious uses of baskets mentioned above, basket makers produced calf-muzzles, bird and fish traps, cradles, stools, chairs, coverings for bottles, strainers, sieves, forms for wigmakers and dressmakers, beehives and even chariots. From ancient to medieval times in Ireland, the woven boat or coracle was in widespread use and is said to have survived until the early 20th Century along the Boyne, near Drogheda. It was a tiny, woven boat made from willow or hazel and covered with a hide from a horse, cow or even a seal. Then it was “waterproofed” with butter or lard! The coracle`s small lightweight construction meant that the occupant had to be careful not to tip it over (He had to sit cross legged and up right) while in water but once he reached his destination, he could pick it up and carry it across land.

We often forget that humans have made various forms of baskets for thousands of years, unlike various metals they did not survive the ravages of time and do not feature in museums , all though they do appear in many great paintings in art galleries all over the world. One example is that beautiful painting by Jean-Francois Millet titled “The Angelus”, (created 1857-1859) the original is in Musee d`Orsay in Paris but countless copies of it are to be found in every town and village in Ireland. I remember as a child, being fascinated by a small copy of it which hung in our hallway. The painting depicts two French peasants (male

and female), who have stopped their work in a potato field, at the sound of the Angelus bells from the church in a local village, and they bow over a basket of potatoes while reciting their prayers.

“A Good Haul” by Victor Gabriel Gilbert (1847-1933, French) which depicts a busy quayside with large, tall baskets crammed with fish just fresh from the sea, is another example which depicts how baskets were intrinsic to everyday life.

Indeed, ancient cultures kept predators out with basket fences, fished with basket traps, slept within basket framed huts, and travelled as we have already seen in basket boats. Baskets were also used in rites of passage from the cradle through marriage to the actual burial basket or coffin, reminding us that many people in the Western world in recent years, have reverted to a willow coffin or wicker coffin. Wendy Richards who played the role of Pauline Fowler in the English “soap opera” Eastenders, was buried in a bamboo coffin.

However, by the dawn of the 1960s basketry had lost its appeal as the “now demon” plastic permeated all walks of life.

One of the most popular poems penned by W. B. Yeats is: Down by the Sally Gardens.

Yet in former times (Sally or saileach is an old Irish word for a willow tree) the sally garden was as ubiquitous as a potato field and every bit as mundane! So, it is a testament to the genius of Yeats, the Nobel Prize Winner in Literature 1923, that he raised the humble sally to the dizzy heights of the world’s greatest poetry, in his romantic and haunting poem.

Down by the sally gardens

my love and I did meet;

She passed the sally gardens

With little snow- white feet.

She bid me take love easy,

As the leaves grow on the tree;


But I, being young and foolish,

With her would not agree.

Dingbats

We have decided to take up where Martin Kennedy left off with his very popular Dingbats challenge

Answers in next week's issue

 <p>zzzz Bull</p>	 <p>c o n</p>	 <p>D footprint footprint</p>	 <p>ENDSSDNE</p>
01	02	03	04
 <p>sailing ccccccc</p>	 <p>Eye E See Except</p>	 <p>RASINGINGIN</p>	 <p>CAP N I A T</p>
05	06	07	08
 <p>DOX DOX</p>	 <p>weather feeling</p>	 <p>TOMATO LETTUCE CUCUMBER ONION</p>	 <p>dice dice</p>
09	10	11	12

YOUNG AND EASY

Vincent Coyle (Dungimmon) reminisces on his schooldays in Ballinacree

'When I was young and easy under the apple boughs' wrote Dylan Thomas in his wonderful poem Fern Hill. Well, I was young and easy in Ballinacree from about 1950 to 1958. Life was quite different then and yet in some strange way it was exactly the same. I'm talking about a time when "Twitter" was a language birdies in bushes used to chat each other up.

Facebook referred to a person with their face stuck in the book and one asked for a google if one wanted a look at something. A "Yahoo" was a thunderin' twit of the highest order and a cursor was a lad who used bad words as in "Mammy he said a curse". An icon was confined to small pictures in Russian churches but we didn't even know that then... and in all fairness if you did ... then hop up gently to the front of the class. When we said "Oh my God" we were usually praying and "like" meant "similar to" rather than a nonsense word that's slipped in between every five words like in a sentence like.

"Savage" referred to lads who jumped around the jungle choppin' each others heads off at a casual nod or a wink; "o" was pronounced like "o" rather than "ow." To be totally fair we did have a few little peculiarities ourselves. We did have a tendency to call "yellow" ..."yella" or sometimes "yollah" as in" That calf has a touch of the yollah scour".

Our clothes were quite different then too. Girls wore blouses. If you said to a girl "I love your top" you'd be likely to get a slap across the puss. Nowadays every girl wears a top. With regard to a bottom I have the suspicion that none of the lads in national school wore underpants. If they did it was a well concealed secret. Most men and quite a number of boys/ lads had what was referred to as the good "Sunday suit". This was reserved for Sunday Mass, fair days and state occasions. As that era in the early fifties drew to a close so did the fashion for elderly damsels to wear casually across their shoulders the skin of a feral animal. Now you may think I'm off to the dark ages but folk of my vintage will easily remember when these ladies came to church with a fox fur or, to put it bluntly, the skin of a fox, head and all strewn nonchalantly around their neck. Anyway I do tend to ramble – back to school, the sós is over.

If it rained we all appeared in school equally wet and gathered around the pot-bellied stove in the Master's (Connaughton) room or the open fire with Miss Simpson. Our

toilet facilities were substantially different to today's modern systems but rigours were shared equally by all – hence no one felt deprived or indeed better off. Toilet facilities in most rural houses in that era were more or less the same as in school. Bill Bryson in his latest book on English home life tells us that one in ten houses in France had an indoor toilet in the 1950's. There were no mobile phones then or iPads or pods. YouTube concerned a bike and anyway we'd have called it U-cube. Privileged lads had "spinners" from broken clocks and bits of broken mirrors, used to reflect spots on the blackboard and annoy the Master no end.

Playing ball in the yard was the general lunchtime activity and every now and then somebody got a small cut or graze. This was ignored until it was time to go in for class and the "victim" was introduced to the Master with the standard phrase of the time: "Sir he's pumpin." This was a loosely veiled plea for permission to take him out to the Master's tank across the road for urgent medical treatment which consisted in a liberal splash of stagnant green tank water on the recently injured area. The "medical assistants" in charge of the patient had to spend some time considering the nature of the injury and generally discussing same with a view to spending as much time out of class as possible.

In those times many parents had young cattle who were skulled. This was an annual ritual and naturally given our capacity for aping our elders we took this task to school and on the "hill" behind the school many a lad was "skulled". The procedure involved grinding ones middle knuckle on the forehead of the victim involved. Some sophisticated farmers used cover the cut area of the head with a puff of antiseptic powder.

In those heady days every home had a yellow tin box manufactured by Dunlop containing all the necessary items for puncture repairs. Each box had a small grater and a stick of chalk like material. One was advised to grind sufficient powder onto the tube "to prevent adhesion to cover". It was a while before I discovered what that meant – anyway back to skulling on the hill. We sometimes used this grinder and chalky thing to cover our skulled colleague lest he become infected. We were nothing if not perfectionists.

A lot of our learning in those days of blackboards and chalk was by rote or as we called it "off by heart." We learned that "mysteries were truths of our religion that we were meant to believe in but could not fully comprehend." We had no idea what "comprehend" meant but like the swallows who thronged the school eaves it came back many years later. All our tables in the days of old maths, which we called "sums," were learned off by heart and stand all of us in good stead to this very day.

Fr. Troy used take the altar boys – and in those days it was boys only – out to the gable wall at the end of the school where he drilled ‘*Juventutam meam*’ into us with all the determination of a sergeant major. Sometimes at Mass we’d make a rush at the ‘*De profundis*’ and hope to slur our way through it when we’d hear the dreaded “Start again laddie.” That was nightmare stuff as the ‘*De profundis*’ was the type of long Latin psalm that needed a good kick start; concentration on individual phrases was enough to render one dumb.

The Master was a great man for the quotations and I still recall him taking a piece of paper from his top pocket and suggesting that if ever we read a good sentence we should learn it off by heart and use it in future essays. The bit he pretended to read from the blank paper was “In modern times the science of aviation has progressed with marvellous rapidity”. From that day to this a goodly number of us have been slipping it casually into essays with some minor changes to suit the context. “Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown” was another regular on the blackboard in copperplate writing. We were quite unacquainted with lads or lassies who wore crowns in the Ballinacree hinterlands but in these troubled times who’d swop with herself in Buckingham palace?

One of the great moments of the school year was the day we closed for the summer holidays. Lads were dispatched down to the well in Carthy’s field for buckets of water which was then liberally splashed all-round the school’s wooden floors. The floors were brushed clean and all the years dust disappeared down the knot holes and cracks in the timber. This task was carried out by lads in their bare feet – naturally it was always warm and sunny and both floor and feet dried quickly. Then the highlight of the day came when the Master produced the tin gallon of boiled sweets. Like the famous Radio Eireann programme ‘The School Around the Corner’ the sweets were divided and we all headed off into the summer sun, young and easy under the apple boughs; one year older and a small bit wiser.

This article and many other stories can be read on the Ballinacree Historical Society website: www.ballinacreehistory.com

Hedgehogs in Ireland by Aibhe Lynch

What species of Hedgehogs do we have in Ireland?

There are seventeen different species of hedgehog found in parts of Europe, Asia and Africa and they were also introduced into New Zealand by England and are now common throughout the country but are now seen as a threat to native wildlife. But the species of hedgehogs we have in Ireland is the Western European Hedgehog.

Hedgehog History

Hedgehogs were first recorded in Waterford in the 13th century it is really unclear if they are native or not some say they were and others say they were not and were introduced as a food source.

Hedgehog Habitat

Hedgehogs live in a wide range of habitats but they are often scarce in upland areas such as moorlands and mountainsides. Hedgehogs enjoy living on the edge of wooded areas. They thrive in hedges, fields and woodlands. Hedges make ideal nest sites for hedgehogs because they have a good supply of food, protection from predators and passages for them to move around safely.

Hedgehog Diet

A hedgehogs diet is mainly made up of bugs and insects. Studies have shown the most important insects in their diet are worms, beetles, slugs, caterpillars, earwigs and millipedes. But hedgehogs are scavengers so they will also eat eggs, small mammals, young birds and carrion.

Hedgehogs need help

Hedgehogs are in urgent need of help because their numbers are decreasing for multiple reasons but the one I am going to tell you about is Habitat loss

according to a new report the hedgehog population has decreased by about 50% since the year 2000 the loss of hedges and overgrown vegetation to create bigger fields has left fewer nesting sites for hedgehogs and also leaving them exposed.

If you see a Hedgehog in the need of help

If you see a Hedgehog that's out in day that could mean it needs help but never jump to conclusions first observe if it seems lively and is going around collecting materials leave it alone because it most likely to be a female that is preparing its nest to give birth. If the hedgehog isn't moving and seems to be lifeless or not responding or has any obvious wounds seek ***IMMEDIATE VETINARIAN TREATMENT*** first ring your local vet and tell them its an emergency and they might be able to help but if not ring a local wildlife center or hedgehog rescue Dublin.

How you can help Hedgehogs in your garden

Set up a hedgehog feeding station just a simple plastic box with a doorway cut where no sneaky animals can put their paws in and pull the food out cut out the door 5 inches squared and tape up the edges of the doors to make sure they're not sharp and then put in a few sheets of newspaper on the floor to keep it clean leave out a bowl of water in a shallow dish(water is really important) then leave out a bowl of food the best is special hedgehog food you can buy or wet cat food only in jelly never gravy and also only meat never fish and add a tunnel to keep other animals out then when your feeding knocking it over and stealing your hedgehogs dinner. If you want you can buy a hedgehog feeding station or make one out of wood just make sure it is predator proof. Thtt

Hedgehog facts sheet

Hedgehogs are Britain's only mammal that has spines. They have around 6000 of them which can help to keep them safe from animals which may want to harm them. When they are in danger they curl into a ball.



Hedgehogs hibernate in November. They eat lots of food before to get fat enough to last until March when they wake up.

Hedgehogs eat:

slugs, snails, caterpillars, worms, beetles, earwigs and millipedes



Dangers to hedgehogs:

Dogs and foxes can kill sick or young hedgehogs. Tawny owls sometimes kill a hedgehog but more are killed on our roads. The main danger to hedgehogs is loss of habitat or places to live.

Quick Facts

- Hedgehogs live on the edge of woodlands, hedgerows and in gardens.
- They like to go from garden to garden through gaps in fences and hedges.
- Babies are born July or July in litters of 4 or 5.
- Hedgehogs are born without spines.
- Hedgehog numbers are falling.
- Hedgehogs are nocturnal which means they come out at night.

© 2013 Topmarks Online Ltd www.topmarks.co.uk/autumn

These are my local Hedgehogs that come to my feeding station





The Late Joan Gallagher's Garden

Thanks to the Gallagher family for facilitating Maurice Daly in taking this lovely set of photos





Poetry Corner

By Brian Smyth

A Song at the Milking Time

(I)

She sang a song at the milking time
As the summer's day did close
Some quaint old worded senseless rhyme
Such as milkmaids oft compose
But I still remember that dear old lay
And this maiden too with her queer strange way.

(II)

She sang a song at the milking time
And I noted again the tune
'Twas still the same old senseless rhyme
But I heard a strange new croon
And an odd little smile on her face did play
For this maiden sure had a queer strange way

(III)

She sang a song at the milking time
But her gaze did often stray
And I guessed the cause for an answering "chime"
Came across the heathery brae
And I longed as I turned from this pair so gay
For the love of a maid with a queer strange way.



This is from Brian's 'Collected Poems

Livestock

Can you name these two breeds of cattle? Answers in next week's RST



Breed 2A



Breed 2B

Last week's breeds:

Breed 1A: Charolais cattle are the most popular beef breed in Ireland – (www.icbf.com). They originate in the Massif Central region of France, with the first imports to Ireland in 1969.

Breed 1B: The Aberdeen Angus, sometimes simply Angus, is a Scottish breed of small beef cattle. It derives from cattle native to the counties of Aberdeenshire and Angus in north-eastern Scotland.

COVID 19 Community Support Group and Club Together

As you are aware Skryne GFC joined forces with the Active First Responders a few weeks back to form the local COVID 19 Community Support volunteer group to help local people most in need however we can in these restricted times. Since then the GAA has partnered with SuperValu and Centra to help keep the most vulnerable of us to keep well stocked up with essentials to get through these difficult times. As part of this “Club Together” initiative Skryne GFC have partnered with Supervalu Johnstown who will contact the COVID 19 Community Support group to assist with the delivery of groceries to the more vulnerable in our parish. This will be a drop and go service to ensure all physical distancing guidelines set out by the HSE will be adhered to all times.

I hope you will agree this could be a great help to the more isolated in the parish so please spread this message out to all your local contacts that may require the service or may know someone who does. The service will be up and running in the coming week with details advertised on all Skryne GFC social media platforms.

Thanks again and mind yourselves!

COVID 19 Community Support group

Cormac Grendon 0879409677

Ross Philips 0879798822

Des Manning 0860584116.

Stephen Naughton 0872225572;

Niall Muldoon 0852091801;

Sean O Regan 0868145169

Christy O Connor 086 2854057

Declan Smyth 087-2504983

A.F.R. (9 am - 6pm) 0868853713.

Please contact any of us for further information or assistance

Notices

Local Handy Man Available

SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Carpentry / Wooden Floors / Cabinet Making
- Radiator covers made to measure
- Shelving for Hot Presses
- Side Gates made to measure
- Under Stairs storage units
- Garden Maintenance including Hedge Cutting
- Power-washing Paths & Patios
- Supply and Fitting of Fireplaces & Stoves

NO JOB TOO SMALL!

Contact: Paoric

T: 046 9034846

M: 085 1597105

Swans of Oberstown would like to inform our customers that we are doing our best to keep the shop open and are taking advice from the government and the HSE on how best to do so.

Customer safety is of paramount importance to us all and we kindly request the same in return for all our staff. Please maintain the new social distancing etiquette and follow all HSE guidelines.

The Swan family would like to thank all our customers for your continued support. Rest assured we will strive to keep the shelves well stocked with all the essentials, together with lots of goodies to help us through these challenging times. As well as offering somewhere safe to shop we are also doing deliveries where possible. At the moment we are open from 8am-8pm. Stay safe.

I would be willing to offer any advice to readers regarding their vehicles. With garages closed readers may have queries regarding issues that they are worried about.

Ron Chawke

Ron Chawke Motors

086-1717159

ronchawkemotors@gmail.com

A&J Print are open for business, this may be of particular interest to students who need to have their projects printed up

SEDUM AND SAGE

LOCAL PLANT NURSERY



FREE DELIVERY ON ORDERS OVER €50
WITHIN 50KM OF SKRYNE

CATALOGUE AVAILABLE AT:
[HTTP://SKRYNE SAVER.COM/SEDUM/](http://skrynesaver.com/sedum/)

EMAIL TO ORDER: [KIRSTENWALK@GMAIL.COM](mailto:kirstenwalk@gmail.com)

Contacts

Apologies to all whose submissions have been omitted due to time/ space constraints or perhaps as a result of gross negligence by the compiler. Hopefully we will be able to include those items in future issues

Do you have family or friends living abroad or elsewhere in Ireland who would like to receive the RST?

Do you have neighbours or friends who do not have email?

Perhaps you could send us their contact details, or family member details, and we will add them to our mailing list

Please send all articles to jimconroy747@gmail.com or to patriciaconroy1@hotmail.com